Additional Resources & Information

The following WEBSITES are do not represent an exhaustive list, but rather a number of good organizations where one can learn more about Smart Growth

Federal Government

U.S. Senate Smart Growth Task Force http://www.senate.gov/~jeffords/smart_growth.html

U.S. House of Representatives Sustainable Development Caucus http://www.house.gov/meehan/sdcaucus.htm

Livable Communities Web Site http://www.livablecommunities.gov/

U. S. Department of Energy - Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development   http://www.sustainable.doe.gov/

U.S. Government Services Administration's Center for Urban Development
http://goodneighbor.gsa.gov/goodnb/default.asp

National Organizations

The Smart Growth Network http://www.smartgrowth.org/index2.html

Planetizen (Planning & Development News) http://www.planetizen.com

Sprawl Guide (Planning Commissioners Journal) http://www.plannersweb.com/sprawl.html

Sprawl Watch Clearinghouse http://www.sprawlwatch.org/

Sprawl (Sierra Club) http://www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/

American Farmland Trust http://www.farmland.org/what/index.htm

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You may gain access to further listings of internet resources by clicking on the weblinks of any of the local organizations

National Organizations continued

American Planning Association http://www.planning.org/

Congress for the New Urbanism http://www.cnu.org/

Joint Center for Sustainable Communities http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/sustainable/

National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) http://www.naiop.org/legislate/growth/index.html

National Governors' Association Center for Best Practices http://www.nga.org/CBP/Activities/SmartGrowth.asp

National Neighborhood Coalition http://www.neighborhoodcoalition.org/

Sustainable Communities Network http://www.sustainable.org/index.html

Urban Land Institute http://www.uli.org

Local Organizations

Orange County Council of Governments http://www.occities.org/occog

Southern California Association of Governments http://www.scag.ca.gov/livable/links.htm

Local Chapters of the American Planning Association http://www.calapa.org

Local Chapters of the American Institute of Architects http://www.aiacc.org

Smart Growth: Questions & Answers

When it comes to defining Smart Growth, there are no easy answers. The Orange County Council of Governments has been working with elected officials and local land use planners to define the meaning of Smart Growth for the past two years. During this process, we have come to realize that while people generally agree on the broad meaning of Smart Growth, the term itself can be interpreted differently by people in different communities. The definition and principles listed below are the results to date.

What is Smart Growth?

The Orange County Council of Governments believes that Smart Growth for Orange County is a compact, efficient, and environmentally sensitive pattern of development that provides people with additional travel, housing, and employment choices by encouraging future growth closer to existing and planned job centers and public facilities.

What is the overall goal for Smart Growth?

The goal should be development that is environmentally, socially, and economically sound.

Is Orange County ready for Smart Growth?

The concept of Smart Growth is seen by some Orange County opinion leaders as a key strategy toward accommodating a portion of expected new growth and concurrently revitalizing, maintaining, and enhancing existing neighborhoods and communities. It is important because our communities are increasingly realizing that the problems that are routinely associated with some previous patterns of development—traffic congestion, air pollution, increased demands on services, and loss of open space, among others—pose significant challenges to our future success.

Smart Growth: Questions & Answers

Does Smart Growth mean "No Growth"?

No. Smart growth is pro-growth. We believe that it encourages Orange County decision-makers to move beyond the typical debate about growth to a more enlightened discussion of how best to accommodate growth. It recognizes that growth is both inevitable and important to maintaining and improving our communities.

What does the Design Competition have to do with Smart Growth?

The Design Competition is intended to stimulate discussion about responsible growth patterns in Orange County. We hope to increase the awareness of the decision-makers, developers, property owners, and the public about advanced housing and development models that utilize land more efficiently. The Design Competition will also encourage architects, planners, students and others in the community to think in creative ways about how we can accommodate future growth.

Are Smart Growth concepts limited to central cities and established areas?

No, Smart Growth policies apply to new areas that can be town-center, transit, and pedestrian oriented, including a mix of housing, commercial and retail uses, and which preserve open space.

Are Smart Growth strategies a "quick fix"?

No, it is important to realize that implementing Smart Growth strategies is a long-range objective. Application of smart growth concepts will not immediately address or fix inner city disinvestments, suburban traffic congestion, regional air pollution, and the political malaise of a wary public. However, it can have a significant impact over time if adopted and implemented locally, community-by-community, and reinforced by county-wide land use and economic policies.

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Smart Growth: Questions & Answers

What do environmentalists think about Smart Growth in Orange County?

Some individuals within the environmental community see Smart Growth as good public policy for Orange County. Instead of debating whether growth will occur, our communities are discussing the patterns of development: where we put it, how we arrange it, and what it looks like.

What does Smart Growth mean for Orange County?

Many of our communities' leaders believe that a common understanding of Smart Growth for Orange County is important to our success in its implementation. The definition and principles listed in this document provide a solid foundation. As we continue to pursue Smart Growth and to reach out to our communities' residents, the definition and principles will continue to evolve.

Land Use and Urban Design. Encourage future growth in the cities and in the appropriate unincorporated suburban communities and village centers through new development, redevelopment, and infill, emphasizing pedestrian-friendly design and mixed-use development.

Travel Choice. Provide people will additional travel choices (walking, biking, rail, bus, and automobile). Some ways of accomplishing this include:

--Designing transit systems to serve the highest residential and employment densities, and to connect key activity centers, including major employment centers, commercial and residential areas, airports, universities, hospitals, and others;

--Locating higher densities and mixed use development in areas with frequent transit service; and

--Providing safe and convenient pedestrian and bike access to activity centers and transit stations.

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Smart Growth: Questions & Answers

What does Smart Growth mean for Orange County? (continued)

Jobs/Housing Balance.   Locate housing near or within major employment areas and provide employment opportunities near major housing areas.

Housing Choices.   Provide, in each community, a variety of housing types for residents of all incomes.

Environment.   Protect open space and habitat areas. When constructing residential, commercial, or industrial areas, or building transportation systems, promote environmentally sensitive development that conserves water and energy, protects water quality, and promotes the use of alternative energy sources.

Additional Resources & Information

Council of Governments (COGS): Questions & Answers

What are Councils of Governments (COGs)?

COGs are voluntary associations that represent member local governments, mostly cities and counties, that seek to provide cooperative planning, coordination, and technical assistance on issues of common concern that cross jurisdictional lines.

When were COGs first formed?

COGs were first formed in the 1960s after a series of congressional mandates promoted area-wide planning and coordination. This first started in the transportation area, but was soon followed by a regional approach to such issues as air and water quality, waste management, housing and community development and growth forecasts.

How are COGs formed?

Jurisdictions usually agree to form COGs following discussion and negotiation on common goals and objectives, which are usually executed by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). In most cases, state law specifically authorizes adoption of a JPA.

How are COGs structured?

Most COGs in California use common organizational characteristics. These characteristics include voting membership by participating jurisdictions through an Executive Committee or Board of Directors. Other common features are the variety of committees that focus on specific issues of concern.

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Council of Governments (COGS): Questions & Answers

What are the functions of COGs?

COGs have a variety of responsibilities, but they are determined by their member agencies and jurisdictions. Some common activities include: regional review of significant environmental projects per CEQA; air quality planning; area-wide clearinghouse for review of federal financial assistance; regional housing needs assessment; growth management analysis and development of subregional strategies; demographic projections; hazardous and solid waste management; review of local general plan amendment; transportation and planning; and general support and technical assistance as directed by member agencies.

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Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG): Questions & Answers

What is The Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG)?

The OCCOG is a voluntary advisory association that represents local governments and agencies throughout Orange County. Member agencies support cooperative subregional and regional planning, coordination and technical assistance on issues of mutual concern that cross jurisdictional lines.

How many agencies belong to OCCOG?

There are currently 37 member agencies that belong to OCCOG. OCCOG is the largest single council of governments in the state of California.

Who are some of OCCOG's members?

Currently, 29 of Orange County's cities belong to OCCOG, as well as the Orange County Sanitation District, Independent Special Districts of Orange County, and the Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agencies.

On what type of issues does OCCOG work collaboratively?

OCCOG unifies Orange County so that it can speak with a collective voice on important subregional and regional issues, such as smart growth, air quality, transportation and demographics.

ORANGE COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 600 W. SANTA ANA BLVD., SUITE 214 SANTA ANA, CA 92701

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Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG): Questions & Answers

What are OCCOG's general functions?

OCCOG provides a forum for study, consideration, and recommendations on area-wide and regional issues. OCCOG assembles information helpful in consideration of problems particular to Orange County and explores avenues for intergovernmental cooperation and action. OCCOG seeks economies of scale in administration of governmental services.

OCCOG also provides Orange County input to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the South Coast Air Quality Management Districts (SCAQMD) activities. In addition, they develop demographic forecasts for use by cities for planning activities and work on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. Finally, OCCOG acts as a liaison between public and private sectors and conducts a legislative review on issues that affect its member entities.

Who coordinates OCCOG's activities?

OCCOG's activities are coordinated by its member agencies. They have a cooperative, shared staffing arrangement that taps existing staff resources and private sector assistance to avoid duplication.

Does OCCOG collect dues from its member agencies?

OCCOG operates solely on a project need/funding basis. No dues are assessed to OCCOG member agencies.

Where does OCCOG receive its funding?

OCCOG receives funding through SCAG, voluntary member contributions, and other sources, such as grants.

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